

CLAIMS

1. A method for associating computer network identifications with network policies, said method comprising the steps of:

determining network identifications associated with a client computer;
associating network identifications with locations; and
feeding network identification/location pairs to a network interface module to implement desired network policies.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the network interface module is a module from the group of modules consisting of a firewall, a router, a sniffer, an intrusion detection module, a behavior blocking module, and a network communications module.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein the network interface module is a firewall, and a user of the client computer adjusts firewall settings to set network policies based upon location.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of determining network identifications comprises using a plurality of network detectors to generate a set of netspecs.

5. The method of claim 4 wherein the set of netspecs is prioritized.

1 6. The method of claim 5 wherein a user of the client
2 computer prioritizes the set of netspecs via a prioritization
3 module.

4 7. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of associating
5 network identifications with locations comprises using a network
6 probe to look up locations in a netspec database.

7 8. The method of claim 7 wherein a user of the client
8 computer modifies the netspec database via a location setting
9 module.

10 9. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of feeding network
11 identification/location pairs to a network interface module
12 comprises using a policy guide to feed the network
13 identification/location pairs to the network interface module on
14 a real-time basis.

15 10. Apparatus for associating computer network
16 identifications with network policies, said apparatus comprising:

17 means for determining network identifications associated
18 with a client computer;

19 coupled to the determining means, means for associating
20 network identifications with locations; and

21 coupled to the associating means, means for feeding network
22 identification/location pairs to a network interface module to
23 implement desired network policies.

1 11. The apparatus of claim 10 wherein the network interface
2 module is a module from the group of modules consisting of a
3 firewall, a router, a sniffer, an intrusion detection module, a
4 behavior blocking module, and a network communications module.

5 12. The apparatus of claim 10 wherein the network interface
6 module is a firewall, and the network policies are implemented on
7 a packet-by-packet basis.
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9 13. The apparatus of claim 12 wherein locations are
10 correlated with firewall settings on a distributed basis within
11 the firewall.

12 14. The apparatus of claim 10 wherein the determining means
13 comprises:

14 a plurality of network detectors coupled to the client
15 computer; and
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17 coupled to the network detectors, a network probe
18 adapted to associate network identifications
19 revealed by the detectors with netspecs.

20 15. The apparatus of claim 14 further comprising, coupled
21 to the network probe, a prioritization module adapted to enable a
22 user of the client computer to prioritize netspecs.

23 16. The apparatus of claim 10 wherein the associating means
24 comprises:
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26 a network probe adapted to produce netspecs
27 corresponding to network identifications; and
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1 coupled to the network probe, a netspec database
2 associating netspecs with locations.

3 17. The apparatus of claim 16 further comprising, coupled
4 to the netspec database, a location setting module adapted to
5 enable a user of the client computer to associate locations with
6 netspecs.
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8 18. The apparatus of claim 10 wherein the feeding means
9 comprises:

10 a policy guide for associating network identifications
11 with locations; wherein
12 the network interface module implements network
13 policies based upon locations fed to the network
14 interface module by the policy guide.
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16 19. The apparatus of claim 10 further comprising, coupled
17 to the network interface module, a user interface adapted to
18 enable a user of the client computer to associate locations with
19 network policies.

20 20. Apparatus for associating computer network
21 identifications with network policies, said apparatus comprising:

22 a plurality of network detectors associated with a
23 client computer;

24 coupled to the network detectors, a network probe
25 adapted to associate each network identification
26 revealed by a network detector with a netspec;
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1 coupled to the network probe, a netspec database
2 associating netspecs with locations;
3 coupled to the network probe, a policy guide for
4 associating network identifications with locations;
5 and
6 coupled to the policy guide, a network interface module
7 adapted to implement network policies based upon
8 locations fed to the network interface module by the
9 policy guide.
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11 21. At least one computer-readable medium containing
12 computer program instructions for associating computer network
13 identifications with network policies, said computer program
14 instructions performing the steps of:
15 determining network identifications associated with a
16 client computer;
17 associating network identifications with locations; and
18 feeding network identification/location pairs to a
19 network interface module to implement desired
20 network policies.
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